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House of Representatives

**Statement of Representative Anna G. Eshoo
on Funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting
(The Obey Amendment to H.R. 3010, the *Fiscal Year 2006 Labor, Health and
Human Services and Education Appropriations Act*)
June 23, 2005**

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment because it is our only chance to restore the \$100 million that have been cut from public broadcasting.

Mr. Chairman, the cuts to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in this bill are stunningly shortsighted. At a time when we're all concerned about the lack of decent programming on television and radio, public broadcasting offers consistent quality. Yet the majority is cutting 46 percent from the budget that supports the broadcast of programs like the *News Hour with Jim Lehrer* and *National Public Radio's All Things Considered*, as well as documentary programs like *The American Experience*. The majority also completely eliminates the program that helps fund *Sesame Street*, *Arthur*, *Between the Lions*, and other broadcasts that help prepare children for school.

For parents concerned about what their children are exposed to on television, what are the alternatives to PBS's educational shows? In looking at the television section of the *Washington Post*, here are some of the programs running opposite *Sesame Street*: *Jerry Springer*, *Divorce Court*, *Maury*, *Texas Justice*, *Judge Hatchett*, *Judge Joe Brown*, *Family Feud*, *Guiding Light* and *General Hospital*.

So why does the majority want to cut this funding? They say it's to reduce the deficit. What they are ensuring is a deficit of education, information, and analytical thinking. Does the majority expect the American people to take their argument seriously? Already this year the majority has rammed through a \$290 billion tax cut for the country's wealthiest families and an energy bill larded with billions for oil and gas producers. None of these costs are accounted for in their budget.

And now we're going to plug the budget deficit by cutting *Sesame Street*? Mr. Chairman, the argument for these cuts are ridiculous. We should reinstate the budget for public broadcasting. Vote for the Obey amendment.